



The Audiovisual Resource Center was inaugurated on December 4th under the patronage of the Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts ad interim, Mr. Him Chhem and the French Ambassador in Cambodia, Mr. Yvon Roé d'Albert. Over 150 people - including members of the French and Cambodian governments, institutional, public or associated partners of the Center and artists – gathered for the official opening of the Center and wished it success. The French minister of Culture and Communication gave a filmed interview for the occasion. The Center's research analysts were awarded a diploma by the Institut national de l'audio-visuel (Ina, French National Audiovisual Institute), in collaboration with other partners such as the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie (CNC, National Cinematographic Center), the Thomson Foundation for Film and TV Heritage, and the Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center. Tapes including preserved and digitized Cambodian archives were also given to the Cambodian government by the Ina and the Thomson Foundation. Despite its successful developments, the Center has suffered greatly from the loss of one of its principal artisans, Sabine Trannin, who passed away on November 23rd, 2006. May this opening be above all a tribute to her and her work, her energy and commitment to the project.

Where do we stand?

- The information desk, especially designed by architect Michel Verrot, in charge of renovating the building, the reading room with custom-designed furniture, the sound studio and the editing room were all completed for the Center's opening.
- Our first photography workshop took place in November with six children from the association PSE (Pour un Sourire d'Enfant). We asked them to photograph neighborhoods in Phnom Penh important to their everyday life. We are now working on showing their photographs to the public.
- In collaboration with the Cambodian Living Arts association (CLA), the Bophana Center is producing a music CD to keep a record of the rich tradition of street singers. The CD will be available as of January 2007 in several outlets in Phnom Penh and at the Center. It will contain a 40 page booklet evoking the everyday life and experiences of the singers.
- ANZ Royal Bank has recently given the Center subsidies to complete its audiovisual equipment. A financing proposal is being studied for the year 2007.
- INEO MEDIA SYSTEM has given the Center a Digital Beta player to help with the digitizing work.
- In terms of human resources, the team has welcomed Gérald Bastelica, in charge of the audiovisual section; Aurélie Chenet, in charge of project management and training and who is with us through the International volunteering program of the French Embassy in Cambodia and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Ratana Lach, our translator. Sok Heng, in charge of accounting and administration, has just joined Silvere Kowalski in the logistic and administrative pole in view of taking on fully these projects in time.

Focus – The Center and the Public



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The Audiovisual Resource Center opened on December 12th 2006. It is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 2PM to 6PM.

Among activities offered, the consultation room is accessible to those wanting to explore individually the archives through the database. Professional researchers are available to accompany more targeted research. Users will also be able to take advantage of training for using the database.

In the hall is a photography exhibition assembled from four sources – Emile Gsell (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); Adhémar Leclère (Musée d'Alençon); Jean Boulbet (EFEU) ; Micheline Dullin (Nausicaa Favart-Amouroux), original eyewitnesses to Cambodia over the Centuries. They offer portraits of women musicians in the Royal Palace between 1866 and 1879; an indication of the diversity of minorities on Cambodian territory (circa 1890); the construction of the Olympic Stadium in 1963; Angkor temples and populations that took refuge there during the American bombings of 1970-1971.

In the near future, collective screenings in Khmer or dubbed in Khmer will allow for a large public to discover the archives and films collected by the Center. Some screenings will be followed by debates. In an effort to establish a strong link with the younger generation, the Center will organize workshops in collaboration with schools and universities, thus introducing the role of images and archival footage as an essential tool that can be used by teachers and professors as pedagogic support. Workshops with NGOs will also support this project through greater knowledge of the material and by identifying archives that could be integrated to the Center's database.

If you wish to support our efforts, do not hesitate to contact our teams in Phnom Penh and Paris. Also, if you have or know of existing documents (films or photos) that could be of interest to the Cambodian public, please let us know.

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